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New York Herald.

### MY PRIZE PICTURE.

I was young and susceptible, and I was also an amateur photographer. My dark room was the envy of all my friends, and my work had received the club prizes for agnistic merit more than ence. However, as they were nothing more than printed slipe of paper, these

prizes were more empty honors.
But now I had decided to enter a composition that was worthy of the name, and where the first prize which I felt sure that I could win-was a check of darkling dimensions to a youth whose modest income was drawn alarmingly low by the constant sacrifices demanded by the all devouring camera god, which I had set up in the place of Larse and

This summer I had had no holiday at all, for two days before I was to start for Lenex-where on the last of June I was to have been best man to my old chum Fred-I was laid on my back, fast in the clutches of pneumonia, and ngh more than two months had passed since then, I was only just out of the doctor's hands. I still felt shaky, and acquaintances were continually stopping me in the street to tell me how badly I

It was now the middle of September. and just the time for a flying trip in search of the picturesque, so I laid in a good supply of rapid plates, packed my traps, and started off to find mry prize

It proved a pleasant jaunt, and I changed my plans to suit those of the friends I often fell in with on the way; for although my camera was company enough in pleasant weather, it was not cloudy days, or a pretty girl to dance gether until I had found the original. and flirt with during the long evenings. I took many a delightful tramp o'er

will and dale in search of the prize pictare which I was sure that I should come across some day. I have always leaned toward a belief in fate, and "Kismet" is the motto engraved upon my seal. Several dozen of my rapid Cramers and been used already, and I was well

pleased with my collection of river views and mountains, cattle pictures and old farmhouses with quaint interiors—to be developed when I should return to town.

bright morning, when I was far up in the valley of the Naugatuck, I wandered into fairyland by chance. I had left the high road and struck through the woods, not knowing whither the path would lead me, and at parlor. last I came out upon a level tract besen the hilly woodland and the river, which was fringed with fipe old trees.

A dazzling mass of bloom was spread before me, clumps of feathery white blossoms and plumes of vivid goldenrod were nodding in the breeze, and underfoot the ground was carpeted with every shade of aster, from richest purple to the most delicate tints of lilac and rose. In this sechided spot Dame Nature had

strewn her treasures with a lavish hand. No photograph could eatch all its elusive beauty, yet I wanted one for a sonvenir, and I proceeded to set up my comern. It made a charming bit upon the ground glass, with the level, flowery foreground and the old gharled oak in the middle distance, while beneath its widespread branches the rippling river showed its rare lights and shadows. It struck me as just the setting for a picture of some fair maklen; but alas! where could I find her in this solitude?

I buried my head under the dark cloth. intent upon the focus; but when I came out into the sunshine again what vision of loveliness did I see approaching? I maw a maiden whose perfect figure was clad in soft, white drapery, and her hands were full of wild flowers and erimson sumach leaves. She stooped, from time to time, to pick the tall, white asters that seemed to bend their flower laden sprays out toward her hand, and then continued her way, slowly and graciously, and all unconscious of the eager, waiting amateur.

In went the plate holder and out came the slide. A broatbless mement of susnse, and then she stood just where I would have placed her. Her position was one of perfect grace. Pausing, she had turned slightly and bent to pluck a flower, looking up and past me with a

I present the bulb, the shutter snap-I and with a feeling of triumph I new that the prize picture was minebeyond recall!

When I got back to the inn where I was at opping I found a telegram recallhag me to town. The summons did not disconcert me in the least, for my short heliday had proved an eminent success. In health I felt like a different man, and I was exultant over my stolen picture.

Some days passed before I had leisure to develop the plate, but then I found I had indeed a price, for it proved the best negative in every way among my

Before I went down town the next morning I hastily printed a proof, which I looked at with increasing rapture sev-

eral times during the day.

What a perfect pose that girl had unful she was! I had only thought of her before as a "good subject," but now I could not get her levely face and gracefigure out of my mind. Who was she, and did she live in that quiet town among the hills, or had she been a stranger like myself? How could I find out, and where could I see her again!

for see her I fult I must It is a strange confession to make, but before twenty-four hours were ever I was desperately in love with the unknown original of my price. That we should meet again some day I had not the shightest doubt. Kismett

But after all would is he right to send this picture her picture into the connection to be criticized admired

freely, pissed from band to hand, then

Why not, when this might be the very means of bringing us together? And then I thought how I should persuade her that my wish to find her out had overcome all scrupies, and that with the seeming liberty which I had taken I had shown myself ready to surrender myself her prisoner and await her sentence for life or death!

I could hardly wait for Saturday after noon to come, and was in a fever until the few clouds of the morning had disappeared and left me the golden sun shine needed to print the prize picture,

I watched the first print with breathor adiade too light. And when it seems exactly right I removed it carefully and put it in a dark place, and laid another piece of freshly famed paper upon the negative. Then I put the printing frame out again on my window sill and began to fuss with another negative.

How it happened I never knew, but there was a crash-and when I turned to the window the printing frame was

I picked it up on the sidewalk-forty feet below-with my precious negative

shivered into a thousand pieces. All my hopes now centered on the one print which fortunately I had secured And oh, the agony of anxiety that I went through in the toning, mounting and

burnishing of that one priceless print!
But it was safely finished at last and
perfect in every way—beautiful, artistic, beyond question the best piece of photo graphic work that I had ever done.

So, in spite of the irreparable loss of the negative, I felt almost happy, for with this I would surely accomplish my double purpose. It could not fail to win the prize-a small tribute to pay to my unknown darling's beauty. And it would also be the means of bringing us face to face. For the picture must certainly find its way into the hands of some of her family or friends, and she would hear of it, see it, be a little indignant perhaps. But her father or brother or guardian would be certain to resent the supposed liberty, and might even write to the successful amateur to take him to task for his presumption; that was my most ardent desire-the very clew I wanted. Once I knew where to find her, and then I could manage all the

I was radiant with satisfaction, and was now only keeping the finished picture until I should have a chance to take a copy of it for myself; for I could not disagreeable to have friends to talk to on make up my mind to part with it alto-

> I was coming up town the next after-noon, my mind full of the beauty and winsome grace of my fair unknown when I ran across my old chum Fred. It was the first time I had seen him since his marriage, and we each had much to say.

> "I want you to meet my wife, Tom; I know you'll like each other. She was as disappointed as I was that your illness kept you from coming to our wed-Are you all right again now? You look well. Can't you drop in upon us to-night? We are stopping at the Buckingham until our house is ready."

> "I shall be most happy to," I answered. And accordingly I presented myself that evening at the door of their private

Fred welcomed me cordially, and his arranging as I entered, turned and came forward smiling and with outstretched hand. I staggered backward-I believe

should have fallen if Fred had not caught me by the arm-for the beautiful unknown in my prize picture with whom I had fallen so desperately in love was no other than Fred's wife!

"What is the matter? You are ill!" she cried, while she hastily brought me a glass of wine.

"It is nothing-nothing, I stammered. "I believe I'm not yet quite strong. I beg your pardon for being such a fool."

The wine restored me somewhat, and I stayed long enough to remove the feeling of embarrasement that naturally followed after this awkward scene. When at last I got back to my room I

looked at my picture eagerly. The same, beyond the shadow of a doubt. And then I began to realize the full extent of my double loss. Impossible to continue ! my adoration of the fair unknownsince now I knew her to be the wife of my friend, and impossible to send the stolen picture of another man's wife into a public competition.

I turned the picture to the wall, and sat for a long time lost in thought. Then I seized a pen and wrote:

Dean Fago-Truth is stranger than fiction. With Data Page—Truth is stranger than fetton. With this I send you the photograph of a fair stranger who deliberately and unconsciously waited loto my picture when I was off on a photographing trip two weeks ago. This will also explain my peculiar collapse this evening. It takes a smaller thing than such a quier coincidence to upset a fellow when he is still below par. I know you will prize the pecture, for it is the only one in existence, and the negative unfortunately is broken. With respectful remembrances to your wife, your eld friend. eld friend

As I sealed my note the word "Kismet gleamed mockingly up from the dark wax. I tied up the photograph and sent it off by a messenger before I had

time to reconsider my decision.

"Good-by to my dreams—and to my prize picture," I said sadly, as the messenger pursued his way down the dark It was gone, and already I repented of

my haste. Then, as a sudden thought struck me, I exclaimed: "By Jove, if I can find it I'll tone the proof!"-Frank Lealis's Wenkly.

An Awkward Interruption. There was a moment of awkward un-

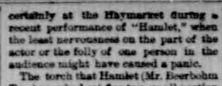
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The Swift Specific Co., ATLANTA, CA.



Tree) uses had set fire to a small portion of the scenery, and Hamlet was solil-equizing in blissful unconsciousness of this fact when a gentleman in the stalls said quietly:

"There is a fire behind you, Mr. Tree." With absolute tranquillity Hamlet turned and extinguished the flame and then went on with the play, interrupted only by the round of applause in which the audience naturally expressed their thanks.-London Tit-Bits.

The Rock Veddahs are stunted, hide ons and filthy; they live in secluded caves and boles; they est bats and rats, and make their scanty clothing from the bark of trees, but the Singhalese regard them as of the very highest caste, and it would be no disgrace for a woman of good social position to marry a Rock Veddab. On the other hand, the very greatest disgrace that could be inflicted on such a woman would be to marry her to a Rodiya, although these last are a race distinguished for beauty, at least in youth, and gentle and innocent by na-

The Rodiyas cannot enter a temple or a village; they are forbidden to till the soil or draw water from a well; they cannot build a house or divide a burden into two bundles; their shadow must not fall on a stream, lest it be polluted; no member of another caste may touch them without disgrace, yet any one may shoot them without blame. All this is shoot them without blame. All this is supposed to be in consequence of the act of an ancestor two thousand years ago, who inveigled a king into eating human flesh. As a consequence the beautiful race is at the foot of the social scale, the ugly and repulsive at the top.—T. W. Higginson in Harper's Bazar.

How a Painting Was Recovered. A painting of the infant Jesus in the possession of a New York family has a curious history. It was sold to a member of the family many years ago, and the merchant declared his belief that it was a Guido Rene, although he was too honest to certify to the fact. Years later the purchaser saw in a print shop an engraving of a madonna and child and recognized a reproduction of a part of his picture. He turned the picture over to a cleaner of oil paintings, and the latter, on taking off the frame, discovered a part of the canvas doubled upon itself. Spreading out the whole canvas he began to scrape at the point where, according to the engraving, the madonna should be. In due time he was rewarded, for the madonna's face ap-peared, and the painting was plainly the original of the engraving. The latter was labeled as from Guido Rene,-Chi-

Wellington in Early Life.

When young Wellington became aid-de-camp to Lord Westmoreland, the lord lieutenant of Ireland, his acquaintance with the usages of society was as limited as could well be possessed by any lad who had passed through the ordeal of a public school, Moore, the poet, who visited Dublin shortly before me, and who lived in much the same society as myself, alludes in his journal to the character for frivolity which young Wellesley had acquired while a member of the vice regal staff.

An old lady, one of his contemporaries, told me that when any of the Dublin belles received an invitation to a picnic they stipulated as a condition of its acceptance that "that mischievous boy, Arthur Weilesley, should not be of the party."—National Review.

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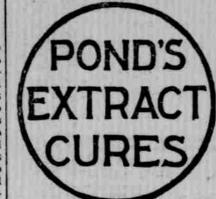
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